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PRINCIPAL OFFICER'S DAILY SUMMARY (Background Information Only)

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SPECIAL REPORT ON PRESIDENT'S TRIP TO EUROPE

The President's trip to Europe came as a normal prelude to the exchange of visits with Mr. Khrushchev. As the President pointed out, during his talks with the Soviet leader there will be no negotiation of the German question or of other European or world problems, and it will be made clear that he speaks only for the United States. Nevertheless, the holding of these conversations should serve a useful exploratory purpose and may help convince Mr. Khrushchev, for example, that he must avoid provoking a showdown over Berlin.

Federal Republic

The President's itinerary limited his stop in Bonn to 24 hours. During this period there was occasion for two long private talks between Chancellor Adenauer and President Eisenhower as well as talks in the presence of their senior advisers. Apart from certain subjects essentially



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of bilateral interest, the joint communique issued on August 27 pictures the range of discussion.

The Chancellor and the President reviewed the post-Geneva Conference situation with particular respect to Berlin in the light of the impending visit of Khrushchev. The President made the general point that he intends to stress to Mr. Khrushchev the imperative need to liberate the world from the pressure of mounting armaments and the horror of their potentialities. Controlled general disarmament could be a decisive factor in relaxing the atmosphere, and Khrushchev could prove that he was truly a great man by contributing towards relaxing tensions and providing a basis for real and lasting progress. On the subject of disarmament, the Chancellor presented his well-known view that any real solution to the problem of a divided Germany can only be found within the framework of an agreement on disarmament.

With specific respect to Berlin, the President and the Chancellor agreed that the West must stand firm in assuring the freedom of the West Berliners and that during Khrushchev's visit, it is essential to convince him that the West will not succumb to Soviet pressure which, the Soviets presumably believe, would eventually force a settlement on their own terms.

There was complete agreement between the Chancellor and the President on the need for continuing full support of NATO.

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United Kingdom

The President's stay in the United Kingdom was of longer duration and provided ample time for useful conversations between the President and Prime Minister Macmillan. Many of the subjects discussed were essentially of bilateral interest and good progress was made on these.

In several talks with Prime Minister Macmillan concerning Mr. Khrushchev's impending visit to the United States and the attitude with which he approaches this encounter, the President found that he and Mr. Macmillan were in substantial agreement. On the question of Berlin and on the importance of not abandoning the effort to achieve the reunification of Germany in freedom, the President again found agreement on Mr. Macmillan's part, with particular emphasis on the importance of maintaining the freedom and security of the West Berliners.

The Prime Minister and the President discussed disarmament in general terms. They agreed on the next steps to be taken in order to achieve resumption of serious talks on this subject with the Soviets in a suitable forum.

The President likewise found Mr. Macmillan in accord with his views on the importance of NATO and the vital necessity of maintaining the solidarity of the Alliance.

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On the subject of a summit conference, the President restated his requirement, as far as his own attendance would be concerned, that there should be evidence of progress at least with respect to Berlin which would give some solid reason for believing that further progress rather than disappointment would result from a summit conference itself.

France

The President visited Paris from September 2 to 4 and had several occasions for substantive discussions with President de Gaulle, both in private and with advisers present. They found an identity of view on the Berlin question and on Germany generally along lines similar to those also reached with Chancellor Adenauer. They likewise agreed on the general lines of current East-West relations, and the President reiterated his concept of the Khrushchev visit to the United States as one not involving negotiations. They agreed that basic Soviet policy objectives remained unaltered.



The two Presidents also agreed on the undesirability of a summit meeting unless there were indications in advance that the outcome would not be a deception for the hopes of the world for peace. Unless such conditions were fulfilled, neither one would attend a summit meeting.

President Eisenhower and President de Gaulle discussed the functioning of the North Atlantic alliance and concurred in its great importance for Western

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security. Each one outlined in some detail his concept of how the Alliance operated and how its operation might be perfected.

President Eisenhower also heard a presentation of the views of President de Gaulle on the Algerian question. A number of problems of primarily bilateral interest were also discussed. Finally, agreement was reached on the necessity for coordination of policies to the maximum extent feasible and on the greatest possible consultation on problems of interest of a world-wide nature, and outside the NATO area.

The communique issued at the conclusion of the talks outlines generally the nature and scope thereof.



Summing up, the President's visit to Europe has not only been worthwhile in itself but a contribution to that continuous process of consultation which must go on between friends and allies when they are faced with difficult problems and a significant new development like the impending exchange of visits with Khrushchev. The President was moved, as were all the members of his party, by the depth and spontaneity of the popular welcome which he received in each of the three countries visited.

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